

## **Open Space Advisory Committee – September 14, 2010**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

### **Attendance**

Present: Andreoli, Cronce, Kowalski, Pfeiffer, Sommers-Sayre

Late Arrival: None

Absent: Baran, Fisher (Twp. Committee Liaison), Hess, Urbanski (Excused)

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No members of the public were present

### **Approval of written record for 10Aug2010 meeting**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **Future Open Space Planning – Discussion**

Continuation of discussion Re: Open Space Plan – It was noted again for those who weren't present at the August meeting that an open space referendum won't be on the ballot this year. There was some brief discussion about future open space planning criteria. The matter will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Municipal Farmland Preservation PIG Application (2009/2010/2011 funding rounds) – Comments were received from the SADC on the latest draft farmland preservation plan. A meeting is planned with representatives from the SADC, Special Planner Linda Weber, Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair Chester Urbanski, and Pfeiffer to discuss latest SADC comments on draft plan.

Green Acres Funding – Pfeiffer noted that Catherine Drake indicated we are unlikely to get additional funding this year until we draw down some of our current funding. Kilmer funding will be expedited to ensure that funding for the project will be secure.

Sommers-Sayre inquired about a property for sale at the corner of Mill Road and Route 179. It was noted this was a smaller parcel which wouldn't qualify for farmland preservation funding.

### **Easement Monitoring**

Update on easement monitoring activities – Pfeiffer will ask Baran to bring Cronce and Andreoli up to date so that they can take over these responsibilities.

### **Miscellaneous Project Updates**

Open Space Newsletter – Sommer-Sayre will coordinate publishing an online version to be posted on the West Amwell Web site in lieu of a mailing since there is no funding for a conventional newsletter this year. Pfeiffer will write up the annual preservation update after the Kilmer project closes, hopefully next month.

County Municipal Grant Application – Urbanski has been reappointed temporarily to the Open Space Committee for the purpose of working on the County Municipal Grant application. The application appears to be much more onerous this year than in prior years and Cathy has already spent 15-20 hours working on it.

Open Space Map Updates – Nothing new to report.

ROSI Update – Will need to be updated to include public access areas from the Machinga property. Pfeiffer provided background on Machinga public access (adjacent to Stiefel public access area), which was donated as part of a subdivision application.

### **Project Assignments**

No additional project assignments were made.

### **Farmland Preservation Project Update**

- Amwell Hunt, Block 8, Lots 20 & 36, 130.36 acres, Route 179/Rock-Lamb Rd.  
Toll Brothers South, also known as West Amwell Ltd. Closed on March 16. Township Committee is expected to award bid for demolition work later this month. SADC has approved the bid as an eligible expense. Cronce will coordinate with contractor after contract is awarded. Auction date of late winter/early spring 2011 may be more attractive for buyers and economic conditions may hopefully improve. A soil conservation plan will need to be filed by March, 2011 due to terms of agreement with SADC. Pfeiffer will investigate what is involved. Public works will be asked to secure the old farmhouse after the debris is removed. Pfeiffer asked about whether the fire company had completed their training on the property; Cronce reported that they were done.
- Gulick III (Block 14, Lot 33.05) ~17 acres, Gulick Road  
County PIG project. Gulicks have accepted offer. Township Committee granted final approval and approved funding ordinance for municipal cost share.
- Nunn (Block 8, Lot 29.01) ~30 acres, Mill Road  
Liaison: Pfeiffer  
Nunns returned the required option agreement to the County prior to the deadline. Farm will be pursued via the Municipal PIG. County will help with the GIS mapping.

### **Green Acres Project Update**

- Bowers (Block 28, Lot 26) ~21.5 acres, Goat Hill Road  
Potential conservation easement project.
- Kilmer (Block 8, Lots 14 & 15), ~62 acres, Route 179  
Conservation easement project. Under contract. Baseline report needs to be done and closing is pending resolution of some cleanup issues. Pfeiffer has made an appointment with Kilmer for this Sunday to do the site inspection. Sommers-Sayre offered to assist with photographing the property during the site inspection. Pfeiffer will write and submit the report. A separate meeting will be set up with the environmental consultant and Twp. Committee Liaison Fisher to examine a collapsed barn on the property to verify that it doesn't need to be removed prior to closing.
- King (Block 13, Lot 65) ~14 acres, Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road.  
Potential conservation easement project. Township Committee has advised Mr. King that project would not be a priority.
- Lawson (Block 16, Lot 6.01) ~15 acres, Route 518.  
Potential direct state acquisition. Appraisals ongoing.

### **Bill List**

The following bill was received from Hunt & Faherty:

\$644.00 – Toll Cleanup Bid Review – Billed to Toll Brothers Ord. 05-2009.

The following bills were received from Sharon Dragan, Esq.:

\$940.80 – Kilmer – Billed to Kilmer Ord. 21-2009.

\$264.60 – Toll (West Amwell Ltd.) – Billed to Toll Brothers Ord. 05-2009.

### **Correspondence**

No additional correspondence was discussed.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Kowalski with a second by Cronce. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 7:30 p.m.